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DOH-BAY OFFERS FREE HIV TESTING IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

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Panama City, Fla.— February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This year's theme is "We're in This Together." The theme highlights the importance of social support- from friends, family, colleagues, and partners- when addressing HIV in the black community. The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) is observing the day by offering free rapid HIV testing and Hepatitis-C (Hep-C) screenings.

"One way we feel people can offer support to their loved ones is by encouraging them to get tested for HIV," said Sandon S. Speedling, MHS, CPM, CPH, Administrator/Health Officer. "The CDC's guideline is that everyone should be tested at least once in their lifetime."

Testing will be offered on Friday, February 7 from 10 am to 3 pm in DOH-Bay's Mobile Medical Unit. The unit will be at Grocery Outlet of Callaway, 225 South Tyndall Parkway, Panama City. In addition to HIV and Hep-C screenings, DOH-bay will also offer education and resources, free give-a-ways, and a special gift for those who get tested. Hep A vaccinations will also be available.

For more information, call DOH-Bay's HIV Division at 850-252-9597. You may also visit us online at Bay.FloridaHealth.gov or follow us on Twitter @FLHealthEmerald. Additional information and resources on HIV can be found at KnowYourHIVStatus.com.

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